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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,624	07/21/2003	Edward J. McGunn	00272P0014US	5179

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WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER
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EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jo et al (US 2003/0141265 A1) in view of Mignault (US 6,269,285 B1).

Regarding Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8, Jo et al discloses a shelf-like device with multiple rows having a pusher plate (11) that contacts the rear most articles (13), base rail (12), stop plate (14) that abuts the front-most articles, rails (15) and end supports (22 and 23). Note that pusher plate (11) is biased by spring (20). See figures 1-7 and paragraphs (2 and 18-20). Note that the "means for withdrawing tubes of currency" is construed as being performed by a customer, as these limitations are given their broadest reasonable interpretation. See Jo, paragraph (4).

Regarding Claims 1, 2, 7 and 16 note that it would have been obvious to use a drawer with four walls instead of just the shelf of Jo, since both configurations are considered to be functionally equivalent to each other and would therefore be obvious substitutions of each other.

Regarding Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 17, Jo does not expressly disclose, but Mignault discloses a sensor (84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96 and 98) used with a pusher plate

(82) to determine the quantity of items (7, 72, 74, 76 or 78) in a row (34, 36, 38 or 40) by sensing the position of the pusher plate. See figures 2 and 3. This sensor data is sent to a controller (134) and an inventory control center (136). See Mignault, col. 6, lines 30-47. The inventory information is construed as including a quantity of items and their dollar value. **Regarding Claims 12 and 18**, note that Mignault discloses that a computer obtains the inventory information from the controller. It would have been obvious for such a computer to have a display that would display inventory information such as quantity and value of items in the form of "vertical tubes of currency" by row as this is a logical way of presenting such information. **Regarding Claims 13-16 and 20**, note that Mignault further discloses a magnetic reed switch (86) used for sensing the position of the pusher plate. This reed switch is considered to be part of a system of resistors having voltages and impedances throughout.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have used the sensor system of Mignault in the pusher plate system of Jo.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to determine the quantity of items left in a column of Jo's shelf device.

3. Claims 5, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jo et al (US 2003/0141265 A1) in view of Mignault (US 6,269,285 B1) and further in view of O'Brien et al (US 6,415,953 B1). **Regarding Claims 5, 10 and 19**, Jo discloses the system described above. Jo does not expressly disclose, but O'Brien discloses a withdrawing means (44) having a semi-cylindrical housing for receiving a vertical cylindrical item in the form of bottles. See figures 3 and 4 and col. 3, lines 9-52.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have placed the semi-cylindrical withdrawing means of Mignault at the front of a column in the pusher plate system of Jo.

The suggestion/motivation would have been to withdraw a single cylindrical item from a column while maintaining the other items in the column. This teaching is readily apparent from figures 3 and 4 and col. 3, lines 9-52.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lebrun '059 is cited as an example of a dispenser having a manual semi-cylindrical withdrawing means. Gonzalez et al '965 is cited as an example of a cash drawer that holds coin rolls.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is (571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

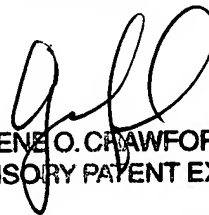
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571)272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jeffrey A. Shapiro
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

March 18, 2006



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER